



# Statistics Weekly

**Thursday, 1 March 1990**

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Acting Australian Statistician

## Manufacturing output — rises again outnumber falls

Fourteen of the twenty-five seasonally adjusted categories covered by the monthly survey of manufacturing production showed rises in January.

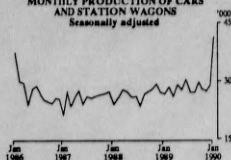
While the number of rises and falls exactly matched those for the previous month, different industry sectors were involved.

The largest percentage increases in manufacturing output in January came in motor vehicles (cars and wagons 43.1%; vehicles for transporting goods and materials 28.0%), washing machines (35.6%) and electric motors (26.5%).

The major falls occurred in the production of lawn mowers (33.2%), chocolate-based confectionery (31.9%) and man-made fibre broadwoven fabric (27.5%). In the case of lawnmowers and woven man-made fabric, the falls in production in January follow large rises in December.

Similarly, the rise in production of motor vehicles for transporting goods and materials followed a fall of about 16 per cent in December.

MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF CARS AND STATION WAGONS  
Seasonally adjusted



PRODUCTION OF COMMODITIES RECORDING SIGNIFICANT  
MONTHLY CHANGE  
Seasonally adjusted

Commodity	Unit	Production in January 1990	Percentage change from previous month
<i>Increase —</i>			
Motor vehicles —			
Cars and station wagons	'000	41.3	43.1
Vehicles for goods and materials	'000	2.85	28.0
Clothes washing machines	'000	37.2	35.6
Electric motors	'000	223.0	26.5
<i>Decrease —</i>			
Lawn mowers (petrol rotary type)	'000	17.1	- 33.2
Chocolate-based confectionery	tonne	5,960	- 31.9
Man-made fibre broadwoven fabric	'000 sq m	12,551	- 27.5

Note: When the chocolate-based confectionery figures are reduced to bite-sized pieces, as it were, slightly more than 200 grams per head of the Australian population were produced in January — down from more than 400 grams in December.

Thirteen of the twenty-six categories for which original data are available for both January 1989 and January 1990 showed increases over the twelve months, while the remaining thirteen recorded falls.

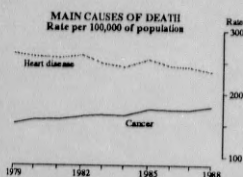
For further information, order the publication *Production Statistics, Australia*, Preliminary (8301.0), or contact Kevin Squair on (062) 52 5558.

## Heart disease and cancer main causes of death

Heart disease caused 38,754 deaths or 32 per cent of total deaths registered in Australia in 1988, while cancer was the cause of 29,562 deaths, 25 per cent of total deaths.

The death rate for heart disease was 234 per 100,000 of population which is a fall of 3 per cent on the 1987 rate and continues the downward trend in the death rate for heart disease.

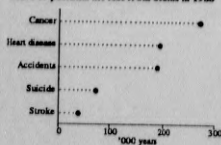
The cancer death rate increased in 1988 to 179 per 100,000 of population, compared with the 1987 cancer death rate of 174.



MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH, 1988

Cause of death	Number of deaths	Death rate per 100,000	Percentage of total deaths
All causes	119,866	725	100.0
Heart disease	38,754	234	32.3
Cancer	29,562	179	24.7
Stroke	12,441	75	10.4
Major respiratory diseases	6,348	38	5.3
Accidents	5,751	35	4.8
Suicide	2,197	13	1.8

**LEADING CAUSES OF PREMATURE DEATH**  
Years of potential life lost from deaths in 1988



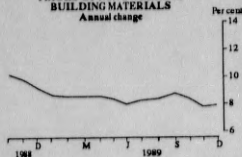
Based on an average life expectancy of 76 years of age, an estimated 998,925 years of potential life were lost as the result of what could be termed *premature* deaths (i.e. deaths at ages 1 to 75 years) in 1988.

When expressed in terms of years of potential life lost, the ranking of heart disease and cancer as causes of death are reversed, due to the higher number of cancer deaths occurring at younger ages. In 1988, cancer deaths accounted for 27.4 per cent of the total estimated years of potential life lost while deaths due to heart disease accounted for 19.4 per cent of the total.

Deaths due to accidents and suicide assume a much greater significance when expressed in terms of years of potential life lost, accounting for a further 18.8 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively of total estimated years of potential life lost in 1988.

For further information, order the publication *Causes of Death, Australia* (3303.0), or contact Mark Dickson on (062) 52 6682.

PRICES OF NON-DWELLING  
BUILDING MATERIALS  
Annual change



## Small increase in prices of building materials

Prices for building materials used in non-dwelling construction increased by 0.5 per cent in December 1989, a slightly lower increase than the average for the past six months.

The main price increases in December were for structural steel, air conditioning equipment and ready-mixed concrete.

Brisbane continued to record an annual change significantly above the State capital city average increase, while Hobart recorded the lowest annual increase of the State capitals.

PRICES OF NON-DWELLING BUILDING MATERIALS, DECEMBER 1989  
Percentage change

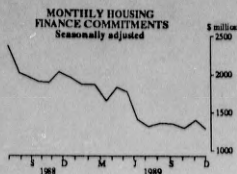
City	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.5	7.4
Melbourne	0.2	7.7
Brisbane	0.8	9.9
Adelaide	0.7	7.8
Perth	1.1	8.5
Hobart	0.5	5.8
Weighted average of six State capital cities	0.5	7.9
Darwin	0.3	6.1
Canberra	0.2	7.9

For further information, order the publication *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Peter Sturgeon on (062) 52 6198.

## Housing finance resumes its fall

Seasonally adjusted housing finance commitments for December 1989 totalled \$1,284.1 million, a fall of 8.5 per cent from the November 1989 amount.

Following an increase in commitments in November 1989, the fall in December re-established the general downward trend evident since June 1988. Lending commitments peaked in that month at \$2,430.4 million in seasonally adjusted terms. The December 1989 figure was 47.2 per cent below the June 1988 high.



The December decrease was not general across institutions, as the table below shows. The fall in bank lending followed a significant rise (against the trend) in November, while the increase in building society lending amounted to an adjustment after a very sharp fall in November.

**HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, DECEMBER 1989**  
Seasonally adjusted

Type of lender	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Banks	1,022.5	- 11.4	- 35.6
Permanent building societies	133.2	13.1	- 48.4
Other lenders	128.4	- 1.9	16.3
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>1,284.1</b>	<b>- 8.5</b>	<b>- 34.3</b>

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation*, Australia (5609.0), or contact Mark Dennis on (062) 52 7117.

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Staff from the ABS Information Consultancy Service can quickly and personally help you identify your specific needs for statistical information, and produce the best package to meet your requirements.

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For more information on the ABS Information Consultancy Service, contact Patsy Cocking on (062) 52 5244 or your local ABS State Office.

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

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Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

The Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
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**Statistics Weekly**  
**1 March 1990**

## All the week's releases: 21 to 27 February

### General

Statistics Weekly, 22 February 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)

### Demography

Causes of Death, Aust., 1988 (3303.0; \$15.00)

Causes of Death, NSW, 1988 (3302.1; \$7.00)

Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, ACT, June 1988 (3207.8; \$8.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Information Paper: Measuring Unpaid Household Work — Issues and Experimental Estimates, 1990 (5236.0; free) — *new issue*

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., December 1989 (5609.0; \$8.00)

Cash Management Trusts, Aust., January 1990 (5635.0; \$3.30)

Lease Finance, Aust., December 1989 (5644.0; \$5.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

Industrial Disputes, Aust., November 1989 (6321.0; \$5.50)

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, December Qtr 1989 (6403.0; \$5.00)

Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, December 1989 (6407.0; \$9.00)

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., January 1990 (6410.0; \$3.50)

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., December 1989 (6415.0; \$5.00)

### Agriculture

Livestock and Livestock Products, SA, 1988–89 (7221.4; \$12.50)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Production Statistics, Aust., January 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)

Production of Building Materials and Fittings, Aust., November 1989 (8361.0; \$5.50)

Production of Paper, Plastics, Paints, Industrial Chemicals and Detergents, Aust., November 1989 (8362.0; \$5.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, November 1989 (8741.3; \$5.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, December 1989 (8741.5; \$8.00)

Tourist Accommodation, Tas., Licensed Hotels with Facilities, January 1990 (8646.6; \$5.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., November 1989 (8741.6; \$3.30)

### Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, January 1990 (9303.5; \$5.50)

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 13 March 1990

### February

- 28** Export Price Index, Aust., December 1989 (6405.0; \$5.00)

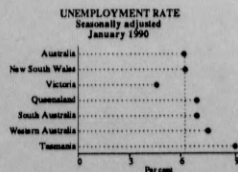
### March

- 1** Balance of Payments, Aust., January 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)  
Foreign Investment, Aust., December Quarter 1989, Preliminary (5307.0; \$6.50)
- 2** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, December 1989 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- 5** Building Approvals, Aust., January 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., December 1989 (6411.0; \$8.50)
- 6** Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, December Quarter 1989 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$3.50)
- 7** Price Indexes of Articles Produced By Manufacturing Industry, Aust., December 1989 (6412.0; \$6.00)
- 8** Average Weekly Earnings, Aust., November 1989, Preliminary (6301.0; \$3.50)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

27 February 1990



Statistics Weekly  
1 March 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 89)*	15.9	24.8	15.2	0.0	45.4	-26.7	n.a.	n.a.	21.1
Retail turnover (Dec. 89) (trend estimate)	9.7	6.6	10.5	4.2	10.3	6.9	n.a.	5.1	8.3
New motor vehicle registrations (Dec. 89)*	-9.6	13.3	-2.6	3.8	-8.2	n.a.	-8.4	11.4	-1.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Dec. 89)	-35.6	-31.7	-31.9	-1.4	-36.4	-32.4	109.7	-28.9	-31.2
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr)	20.5	25.8	28.1	30.9	36.5	18.2	1.8	6.4	24.8
Employed persons (Jan. 90)*	2.8	5.2	5.5	3.1	1.2	7.7	0.0	5.5	3.9
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 89)	7.4	8.5	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.4	7.5	6.5	7.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (August 89)	10.6	6.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	6.7	4.5	7.5	8.0
Population (June 89)	1.1	1.3	3.2	1.1	3.0	0.6	0.2	1.6	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89)	-8.5	19.0	-24.5	13.8	4.5	-6.6	2.1	-6.7	-7.9

\* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)



Key national indicators – consolidated to 27 February 1990

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Period	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>							
Gross Domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	89,803	89,733	1.8	13.0
	— 1984-85 prices			63,334	63,732	0.7	5.4
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	7,152	7,413	0.0	20.2
	— 1984-85 prices			5,544	5,755	-1.8	18.3
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Dec. 89	8,493	n.a.	n.a.	11.3
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Dec. 89	9,365	9,925	-0.2	9.4
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	16,697	14,831	0.2	3.7
New motor vehicle registrations		No.	Dec. 89	47,168	49,351	-3.7	-1.0
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Dec. 89	9,597	11,041	-7.7	-27.7
Value of all building approvals		\$m		1,622	1,810	-16.2	-25.5
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 89	7,973	7,583	-1.8	24.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,257	4,999	-3.9	11.2
Manufacturers' sales		"	Sept. qtr 89	36,369	35,389	1.5	14.0
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to Dec. 89	37,447	n.a.	n.a.	9.6
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons		'000	Jan. 90	7,712.6	7,870.9	0.3	3.9
Unemployment rate †		%	"	6.7	6.2	0.2	-0.7
Participation rate †		"	"	62.8	63.8	0.3	0.8
Job vacancies		'000	Nov. 89	62.7	66.0	-0.6	-6.0
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.6	1.5	-3.0	7.7
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Dec. qtr 89	200.7	n.a.	1.9	7.8
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industry	1984-85 = 100.0		Nov. 89	118.0	n.a.	0.2	8.2
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0		"	566.6	n.a.	0.6	7.0
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Sept. qtr 89	4,846	4,667	-3.6	14.1
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	August 89	508.40	n.a.	1.5	8.0
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Dec. 89	17.80	n.a.	-0.4	2.6
10-year Treasury bonds †			"	12.90	n.a.	-0.2	-0.1
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise (e)		\$m	Dec. 89	4,155	4,012	-0.9	15.4
Imports of merchandise (e)		"	"	3,653	4,010	-8.1	1.0
Balance on merchandise trade (c) (e)		"	"	502	2	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c) (e)		"	"	159	-462	39.0	32.7
Balance on current account (c) (e)		"	"	-908	-1,622	9.5	2.0
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 89	n.a.	108.2	-2.8	3.0
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt (e)		\$m	30 Sept. 89	110,329	n.a.	1.9	14.7
Net foreign liabilities (e)		"	"	147,716	n.a.	3.5	15.1
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
US\$ (e)	per \$A		Dec. 89	0.7859	n.a.	0.4	-8.5
Trade weighted index ((e)	May 1970 = 100.0		"	60.7	n.a.	-0.2	-3.5
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		June 89	16.8	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors	'000		Nov. 89	193	170	3.2	-5.1

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released on Thursday, 1 March 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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